

Community Ministry *Newsletter*



May 2023

Comfort and Hope Ministry

Into the midst of the still darkness and the searing pain left by the loss of a loved one, creep the lingering questions – “God where were you in my time of need?”; “why didn’t you answer my fervent prayers?” When **Betty Davis** experienced the sudden, unexpected death of her 21-month-old granddaughter, these emotions and many others flooded her mind. But what are we to do since the scriptures say, “all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purposes”? After much prayer and reflection, Betty determined to develop something out of the depths of her own grief that would be comforting to others who were experiencing loss – and so arose the **Comfort and Hope Ministry**.

With the encouragement of the eldership and the support of the Ministry Development Team, Betty developed a ministry whose goal is to provide support and encouragement to those who have lost loved ones or who are experiencing serious health issues. **Kay Hayes** and **Rita Morgan** worked tirelessly with Betty to bring this dream to reality.

Many Hillcrest members and their extended families



Left: Betty Davis, left, and Pat Varner, right, compile a list of recipients. Bottom, left: Janiece Watts, Kay Hayes, and Connie Adams prepare gift bags. Bottom, right: Linda Perkins, one of numerous volunteers, delivers Christmas bags for the ministry.

for those hospitalized. While the Covid epidemic made face-to-face contact difficult, the ministry still found creative ways to support and encourage families.

The Comfort and Hope Ministry continues to expand and evolve as people bring forth new ideas and become personally involved. For example, **Star Ferguson** maintains contact with the family for a year by periodically sending them booklets which acknowledge their ongoing grief and provide strategies for moving forward with hope and purpose.

Numerous people are involved with the work of this ministry; however, additional workers are always needed and welcomed. Should you have an interest in being involved in this ministry, contact **Betty Davis** or any of the others mentioned in this article. ♦



have been blessed by the work of this ministry. The first service provided was delivery of paper goods (cups, plates, napkins, utensils, etc.) to help feed and care for guests. The following holiday season, ministry

members and others from the congregation baked, assembled, and delivered Christmas bags as gifts of love for those who had lost loved ones during the year. Later **Pat Varner** organized a team to provide gift baskets



YOU ARE INVITED Hillcrest's Respite Room

By Betty Davis

Sometimes what we need most is an opportunity to simply “be,” to enter into a place with no expectations, no demands, no outside pressure/noise. There can be a desire to escape the chaos in our lives, have a respite from stress and uncertainty, or deep sorrow, to capture a quiet moment for ourselves to pray, reflect, or just soak up the silence.

*“Be still and know that I am God,
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”
Psalms 46:10*

God’s command can be

a challenge for space and time. In efforts to help our family follow this command and come to a place of healing and hope, the Comfort and Hope ministry has created a room dedicated to peace. In this quiet, calm place, you can hopefully find the space and resources to comfort you, and give you hope. 2 Thess. 2:16-17

For some of us, peace can come with sitting in the soft light of a lamp, listening to music, or journaling. Working a silly puzzle can be calming, or stressful, you decide! Care Notes and books on many subjects, with differing circumstances/ages, are available throughout the room.

At the desk, there are cards, envelopes, pens and

a church directory available for your use, as well as larger envelopes for mailing additional materials to others.

Please use this room and its resources for your own benefit and those whom you love.

You are encouraged to take any items (books, CDs, pamphlets) with you, for yourself or someone else. No returns needed. They are there to be used, not collected.

The Respite Room is at the left exit from the auditorium, Room 51.

*“Be still and know that I am God.”
Be still and know.
Be still.
“Be.”*

